

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04

L-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 588

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INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0390

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GES

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING OF NOVEMBER
4, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT ITS NOVEMBER 4 MEETING, THE AD HOC
GROUP (AHG) HEARD A REPORT FROM THE FRG REP ON MBFR/CSCE
ASPECTS OF CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S RECENT MOSCOW VISIT
(SEPTEL), APPROVED TALKING POINTS FRO THE NOVEMBER 5
INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN REPS AND COMMENCED
DISCUSSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY CONTINGENCY PRESS TALKING
POINTS (TEXT MBFR 372); THE LATTER DISCUSSION WILL BE
CONTINUED AT NOV 6 AHG MEETING. THE APPROVED INFORMAL
TALKING POINTS OPEN WITH AN ATTEMPT TO DRAW THE EAST
INTO DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCE RECATEGORIZATION AND
THEN MOVE ON TO CRITIQUE OF AND SUBSEQUENT PROBE OF
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ACTUAL FLEXIBILITY IN THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION

PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. TALKING POINTS FOR NOVEMBER 5 INFORMAL. THE AHG REVIEWED AND APPROVED FIVE TALKING POINT PAPERS FOR THE NOVEMBER 5 INFORMAL SESSION. AS WEST WILL HOST NOV 5 INFORMAL AND THUS MAKE LEAD-OFF STATEMENT, THE FIRST PAPER WAS DESIGNED TO DRAW EAST INTO DISCUSSION OF GROUND FORCE RECATEGORY; IT INCLUDED THE OFFER TO EXCHANGE AGGREGATE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL TOTALS FOR BOTH SIDES. IF AS EXPECTED, THE EAST THEN TRIES TO SHIFT DISCUSSION TO ITS INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL, ALLIED REPS WOULD USE SECOND TALKING POINTS PAPER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, DESPITE POSITIVE FEATURES ON PHASING AND US/SOVIET DIFFERENTIATION, THE EASTERN PROPOSAL WAS NOT NEW AND DID NOT REPRESENT PROGRESS TOWARD A MIDDLE-GROUND SOLUTION. THE THIRD PAPER POSED A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS IN ORDER TO PROBE THE LIMITS OF FLEXIBILITY ON DETAILS OF EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL, WHILE DISCLAIMING THAT SUCH QUESTIONS INDICATED ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF OR SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE PROPOSAL; THE UK, FRG AND ITALIAN REPS WERE PARTICULARLY WARY OF DETAILED QUESTIONS AND WANTED TO STRESS THE DISCLAIMER. US REP SAID HE EXPECTED LITTLE FLEXIBILITY TO EMERGE IN REPLY TO WESTERN QUESTIONS, AND THIS APPROACH WOULD THUS SHORT CIRCUIT SUBSEQUENT EASTERN ARGUMENTS ABOUT FLEXIBILITY AND PROVIDE A BASIS FOR A FURTHER ALLIED RESPONSE. THE FOURTH PAPER WAS DESIGNED TO DRAW THE EAST BACK TO GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION AND DATA EXCHANGE, WHILE THE FINAL TALKING POINTS COVER VARIOUS CONTINGENCIES.

3. UK REP (ROSE) NOTED THAT THE TALKING POINTS DO NOT COVER THE QUESTION OF LEGAL POSSIBILITY OF GLOBAL CEILINGS AND SAID THERE SHOULD BE A CONTINGENCY RESPONSE ON THIS ISSUE. FRG REP (BEHREND) AGREED, RECALLING SOVIET REP KHESTOV'S ASSERTION IN OCTOBER 31 PLENARY STATEMENT THAT GLOBAL CEILINGS ARE UNFEASIBLE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW SINCE NATO CANNOT BE HELD LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF ITS MEMBER STATES. THE WEST SHOULD BE IN A POSITION TO REFUTE THIS CONTENTION. ACTING ITALIAN REP (TALIANI) SAID THAT SOVIET DELOFF SHUSTOV HAD ADMITTED TO HIM THAT COLLECTIVE OBLIGATIONS WERE LEGALLY POSSIBLE. TALIANI AGREED THAT GROUP SHOULD PREPARE A
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CONTINGENCY RESPONSE ON THIS SUBJECT BUT SAID THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE VERY CAREFULLY AND USED AT A LATER DATE. NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM REPS AGREED, AND RAISED THE QUESTION WHETHER THIS COMPLEX PROBLEM MIGHT NEED TO BE REFERRED TO NATO; TALIANI VIGOROUSLY REFUTED THIS LATTER POINT, SAYING NAC POSITION CLEARLY FAVORED GLOBAL CEILINGS AND IT WAS AHG TASK TO ADVANCE APPROPRIATE ARGUMENTATION. CONSENSUS OF GROUP WAS THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE DEALT WITH WITHIN EXISTING

GUIDANCE, THAT A CONTINGENCY RESPONSE SHOULD BE
WORKED UP FOR CONSIDERATION AT NOV. 6 AHG MEETING,
AND THAT THE GROUP THEN COULD CONSIDER WHETHER IT
NEEDED ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM NATO.

4. DRAFT CONTINGENCY PRESS STATEMENT. AHG ALSO
REVIEWED THE SUPPLEMENTARY CONTINGENCY PRESS TALKING
POINTS IN MBFR VIENNA 372. US DEP REP EXPLAINED THAT
THE PAPER DEALS WITH STATEMENTS IN THE WESTERN PRESS,
BASED ON EASTERN LEADKS, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PACT
HAS AGREED TO US AND SOVIETS REDUCING FIRST. AFTER
CONSIDERATION, THE GROU AGREED THAT THE SUPPLEMENTARY
CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IS NEEDED, BUT URGED THAT IT
BE SHORTENED AND REVISED. AHG WILL CONSIDER REVISED
STATEMENT AGAIN AT ITS NOV. 6 MEETING.
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